



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

LATE TESTIMONY

February 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2182 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 01, 2012, 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2182 is to require a county that is relocating a homeless person or family from public property, to provide access to a temporary emergency shelter and notify the person or family of the location of the emergency shelter.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

County and State actions to remove presumed homeless individuals from public property have historically been well-planned and executed with the full cooperation and collaboration of homeless service providers. Typically, the Counties have sought the help of homeless service providers to conduct initial outreach to the individuals impacted by park clean ups or other similar closures. In addition to notifying the affected individuals about the planned closure or clean up of the public property, outreach workers and County staff have provided them with information about the

housing and/or shelter resources available to them prior to and at the point of displacement. Many of the individuals who had been living on public property have chosen to utilize those shelter resources, while some others have not.

Based on the Counties' historical utilization of the above-detailed approach to relocation of individuals from public property, this proposed legislation may be unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.